

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Chair, I strongly support the passage of the Graves amendment, of which I am a cosponsor, to establish a National Commission on the Future of the Army.

Last December, I joined with 142 of my colleagues in expressing to Defense Secretary Hagel my deep concerns about Army cost-saving proposals that would impose draconian cuts on the Army National Guard. Congress rightly rejected similar proposals that would have reduced end strength and force structure for the Air National Guard, and I am pleased that the Armed Services Committee chose to reject such proposals for the Army National Guard too.

I question the wisdom of making such cuts, considering the cost-effectiveness of the Army National Guard as a dual use force, and cost-savings that could be achieved in the Total Army by better leveraging the Operational Reserve. Blending Active and Reserve Component Army units, as the Air Force is doing, could ensure long-term budgetary savings to maintain a robust Total Army. As the Reserve Forces Policy Board (RFPB) has noted, a blended Total Army composition means more combat capability at about one-third the cost.

I believe we need to take a harder look at the future force structure of the Army, which is why a Commission is absolutely necessary. The House should fully consider and be fully informed about how the Army's proposed cuts fit into a long-term national security strategy.

With the operational reserve being rebuilt since September 11, 2001, this generation of Army National Guardsmen and Reservists has proven every bit as effective, committed, and capable as their active counterparts. These men and women have served with distinction and honor overseas, and our Nation cannot afford to lose their service. We must not go blindly down a path that would inhibit our Army's ability to respond to world events and domestic emergencies.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Chair, I rise today to discuss an important issue facing our troops—primary blast injury and its connection to traumatic brain injury.

TBI has become the "signature wound" of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, with 20% soldiers deployed are estimated to have experienced a brain injury. I would like to thank Chairman McKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for their commitment to this issue in recent authorizations.

As Co-Chair and Co-Founder of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, I have spent the last thirteen years fighting for patients with brain injuries, both on and off the battlefield. We all know that traumatic brain injury (TBI) is the signature wound of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and while we made great progress on ensuring our soldiers have the best care, there is still more work to be done.

The high rate of TBI and blast-related concussion events resulting from current combat operations directly impacts the health and safety of individual service members, and subsequently the level of unit readiness and troop retention. The Department of Defense (DoD) is actively seeking strategies to prevent, mitigate, and treat blast-related injuries, including TBI.

Since I began working on this issue, our knowledge of the brain has expanded at an incredible pace. In recent years, we have made strong investments in TBI research. The DoD's Peer-Reviewed Psychological Health and TBI Research Program conducts extensive research on TBI; however, little is known about primary blast injury and its connection to TBI. Primary blast injury occurs when an explosion generates a blast wave traveling faster than sound and creating a surge of high pressure immediately followed by a vacuum. Studies show that the blast wave shoots through armor and soldiers' skulls and brains, even if it doesn't draw blood. Researchers still do not know the exact mechanisms by which primary blast injuries damages the brain's cells and circuits. However, the blast wave's pressure has been shown to compress the torso, impacting blood vessels, which then send damaging energy pulses into the brain. The pressure can also be transferred partially through the skull, interacting with the brain.

My amendment would direct the Department of Defense to conduct a study on blast injury mechanics covering a wide range of primary blast injury conditions, including TBI. Understanding how a primary blast injury affects the brain is imperative to developing appropriate prevention measures, including ensuring proper equipment. I was glad to see this amendment pass the House last night, and I hope that it will be adopted in the final bill after negotiations with the Senate.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA STUDENTS

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate the University of Central Florida for winning the 2014 Raytheon National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (NCCDC). The competition, held April 25–27 in San Antonio, Texas, brought together the top ten college and university teams from across the country.

More than 180 colleges and universities and 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students participated in competitions leading up to the national championship. The Raytheon competition models real-world scenarios in which teams are required to maintain operational needs of their businesses and user demands amidst cyber attacks. Preparing the next generation of cyber security leaders is critical to defending our nation against ever-increasing threats.

Again, congratulations to the University of Central Florida team for bringing home the Raytheon NCCDC Alamo Cup and establishing the University as a national leader in cyber security.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Chair, I ask that the following exchange of letters be included as part of the RECORD during consideration of H.R. 4435:

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.